

Message Text

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51

ACTION NEA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EUR-08 IO-03 NSC-05 NSCE-00 SAJ-01

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R 090914Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2258

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L ALGIERS 0911

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UR, XF, AG

SUBJ: SOVIET COMMENT ON GENEVA CONFERENCE

1. IN CONVERSATION 8 APRIL SOVIET EMBASSY POLITICAL
COUNSELOR VITALIY ZHURAVLEV MADE FOLLOWING POINTS:

2. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION ABOUT HOW SOVIETS ENVISAGED
TIMING OF GENEVA CONFERENCE, ZHURAVLEV STATED QUESTION
OF TIMING VERY COMPLICATED AND WOULD REQUIRE CONSIDERABLE
PRIOR CONSULTATIONS. HE SAID THAT, FOR EXAMPLE, QUESTION
OF PARTICIPANTS BECOMING INCREASINGLY INVOLVED. THERE
IS FIRST QUESTION OF PLO REPRESENTATION, WHICH HE STATED
HE ENVISAGED WOULD ULTIMATELY BE RESOLVED BY ISRAELIS BEING
"REALISTIC AND CLEVER" AND ACCEPTING SEPARATE PLO REPRESENTATION.
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TATION.

3. SECONDLY, HE ADDED, THERE IS QUESTION OF WIDER PARTICIPATION. NOT ONLY HAS SADAT INVITED FRANCE AND UK, BUT HE WANTS TO GET NONALIGNED REPRESENTATION AS WELL. HE HAS, THEREFORE, SENT LETTER INVITING YUGOSLAVIA AND INDIA TO PARTICIPATE: QUESTION OF POSSIBLE ALGERIAN PARTICIPATION HAS ALSO BEEN RAISED AS ALGERIANS WANT BADLY TO ATTEND UNDER NONALIGNED COVER.

4. ZHURAVLEV REPEATED THAT TO RESOLVE THESE ISSUES WILL TAKE CONSIDERABLE CONSULTATION BEFORE CONFERENCE OPENS AND THEREFORE NO ONE REALLY COULD SET UP DEFINITE TIMING.

5. REMAINDER OF DISCUSSION RELATIVELY PRO FORMA WITH ZHURAVLEV STRESSING THAT MIDDLE EAST COULD PROVIDE "DETONATOR" FOR MAJOR CONFLICT AND THEREFORE US AND USSR MUST AVOID BEING DRAGGED INTO CONFLICT BY AREA COUNTRIES, THUS MAKING NEGOTIATIONS ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL. HE ALSO COMMENTED THAT WHILE SOVIETS HAD NOT EXPECTED SECRETARY'S MISSION TO SUCCEED BECAUSE OF EXCLUSION OF PALESTINE QUESTION, THEY WERE QUOTE DISAPPOINTED UNQUOTE THAT SOME CONCRETE STEPS WERE NOT ACHIEVED. LYNE

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